PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRAVANCORE-COCHIN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

First Session—1956.

Monday, the 27th February, 1956.

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Trivandrum, at Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 27th February 1956, with Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

ADDRESS BY HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJPRAMUKH.

His Highness the Rajpramukh, having arrived in the Chamber in procession, took his seat on the Dais at Eleven of the Clock.

HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJPRAMUKH :

Hon. Members of the Legislature,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you, Members of the Legislative Assembly, to this Session at the beginning of a New Year. The Legislative Assembly has been summoned mainly to consider three items which demand the earnest consideration and valuable advice of the elected representatives of the people in the State; *viz.*, the recommendations of the States Re-organisation Commission, the Financial Statement for 1956-57 and certain important items of Legislation.

Since my address to you last year, the Commission appointed by the Government of India to examine the question of re-organisation of the States of the Indian Union "so that the welfare of the people of each constituent unit as well as the nation as a whole is promoted", has submitted its report to the Government. You are, no doubt, aware of the recommendations of the Commission and the reactions of the Government of India thereon. It is expected that a Bill for the States re-organisation drafted by the Government of India will come up for your consideration. I am sure you will give your earnest consideration and you will arrive at a decision in the best interests of the people of this State and India as a whole.

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In my last address to you, I had indicated a broad outline of the programme of work of my Government for the current year. You will be happy to note that most of the suggestions contained in my address have been carried out.

Public Services.

The integrity and efficiency of the Public Service being of paramount importance in the field of administration, my Government have already carried out a scheme of all round revision in the pay scales of Government employees with particular emphasis on the raising of the emoluments of low-paid employees to reasonable levels. This would certainly contribute to contentment in the services which in turn would add to efficiency.

A Department of Enquiries has been constituted to look into delays and allegations of corruption. It is expected that with substantial betterment of service conditions and close watch of the activities of Departments, there will be noticeable improvement in the administration.

Land Policy.

Among the salient features of the Land Revenue Administration during the financial year 1955-56, the most important one is the enactment of Edavagai Rights Acquisition Act passed with the object of conferring full proprietory rights on the tenants of the Edavagai lands of Kilimanoor, Vanjipuzha, Poonjar and Edappally by acquiring the rights of the Edavagai Chiefs over these lands on payment of lawful compensation. The result of the legislation is that with effect from 1st April, 1956 the tenants of these lands get full proprietory rights over the lands subject to the payment of basic tax as in the case of other registered holdings without being liable to pay any compensation for the same.

Another mile stone in the land policy of the State is the enactment of the Travancore-Cochin Prevention of Eviction of Kudikidappukars Act by which Kudikidappukars are assured permanent rights of occupancy in the Kudiyirippus. The legislation benefits a large section of landless class who were put in the lands belonging to others without any permanency.

A number of measures for land legislation consistent with the declared policy of the nation towards the achieve-

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